<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) Data display apparatus for displaying the relationships between sets of data, said apparatus comprising:

<u>selecting means for selecting target data from the sets of data;</u>

<u>obtaining means for obtaining similarity values among unselected others of</u> <u>the sets of data in order to determine a direction from the target data to each of the other</u> <u>sets of data on a display screen;</u>

~~data receiving means for receiving sets of data and similarity values for~~ ~~similarity between the sets of data;~~ and

display control means for controlling <u>a display of</u> ~~display means to display~~ ~~relationships for~~ the <u>other</u> sets of data <u>on the display screen positioned around the target</u> <u>data on the screen on the basis of the determined direction</u> ~~by physically separating the sets~~ ~~of data separated in accordance with the similarity values and to display links between the~~ ~~representations in accordance with the similarity values~~.

50. (Currently Amended) Data display apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said display control means is adapted to control the display means to display the ~~representations~~ <u>sets of data</u> as images ~~of the sets of data~~.

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51.   (Previously Presented)   Data display apparatus according to claim

49, wherein said display control means is adapted to control the display means to display a

link in a first style if the similarity value associated with the link is above the mean of the

similarity values by a predetermined amount and to display a link in a second style if the

similarity value associated with the link is below the mean of the similarity values by a

predetermined amount.

52.   (Currently Amended) A data display method of displaying the

relationship between sets of data, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting target data from the sets of data;

obtaining similarity values among unselected others of the sets of data in

order to determine a direction from the target data to each of the other sets of data on a

display screen; and

~~receiving sets of data and similarity values for similarity between the sets of~~

~~data;~~

controlling a display of ~~display means to display representations for~~ the

other sets of data on the display screen positioned around the target data on the screen on

the basis of the determined direction ~~separated by physically separating the sets of data in~~

~~accordance with the similarity values; and~~

~~displaying links between the representations in accordance with the~~

~~similarity values.~~

53.   (Currently Amended) A data display method according to claim 52, wherein the display means is controlled to display the ~~representations~~ sets of data as images ~~of the sets of data~~.

54.   (Previously Presented) A data display method according to claim 52, wherein the display means is controlled to display a link in a first style if the similarity value associated with the link is above the mean of the similarity values by a predetermined amount and to display a link in a second style if the similarity value associated with the link is below the mean of the similarity values by a predetermined amount.

55. to 67. (Cancelled)

68.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 49, ~~55, and 61,~~ further comprising:

query receiving means for receiving an input query; and

determining means for determining similarity values representing similarities between the input query and data representing the sets of data,

wherein ~~said~~ a data receiving means is arranged to receive the sets of data and the similarity values from said determining means.

69.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said determining means comprises accessing means for accessing a database and

comparing means for comparing the input query with the data representing the sets of data to determine the similarity values.

70.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said query receiving means is arranged to receive a textual input query and said determining means is arranged to determine similarities between the textual input query and descriptive caption data representing the sets of data.

71.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said determining means comprises accessing means for accessing a database and comparing means for performing a natural language comparison between the input query and descriptive caption data representing the sets of data to determine the similarity values.

72.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 71, wherein said comparing means is adapted to compare a meaning of the input query with a meaning of the caption data.

73.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said display control means is adapted to select the a representation of the set of data having the similarity values representing the most similarity to the input query as a focal representation, and to control the display means to display the representations of the rest of

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the sets of data around the focal representation at distances dependent upon the determined similarity values.

74.   (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 49, ~~55, and 61,~~ wherein said display control means is adapted to control the display means to display thumbnail images of the sets of data as ~~the~~ representations.

75.   (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 68, further comprising means for receiving a selection signal following selection of one of the representations as a new query, said display control means being responsive to the selection signal to control the display means to display the selected representation at a central position and to display the representations for the sets of data most similar to the selected representation around the selected representation at distances in accordance with the similarity values.

76.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 52, ~~58, and 62,~~ further comprising the steps of:

receiving an input query; and

determining similarity values representing similarities between the input query and data representing the sets of data,

wherein, in ~~said~~ a data receiving step, the sets of data and the similarity values determined in said determining step are received.

77.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein said determining step comprises the steps of accessing a database and comparing the input query with the data representing the sets of data to determine the similarity values.

78.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein a textual input query is received in said input query receiving step, and similarities between the textual input query and descriptive caption data representing the sets of data are determined in said determining step.

79.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein said determining step comprises the steps of accessing a database and performing a natural language comparison between the input query and descriptive caption data representing the sets of data to determine the similarity values.

80.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 79, wherein a meaning of the input query is compared with a meaning of the caption data in said performing step.

81.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein in said display controlling step, the representation of the set of data having the similarity values representing the most similarity to the input query is selected as a focal representation, and the display means is controlled to display the representations of the rest

of the sets of data around the focal representation at distances dependent upon the determined similarity values.

82.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 52, ~~58, and 62,~~ wherein in said display controlling step, the display means is controlled to display thumbnail images of the sets of data as ~~the~~ representations.

83.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, further comprising the steps of receiving a selection signal following selection of one of the representations as a new query, and, in response to the selection signal, controlling the display means to display the selected representation at a central position and to display the representations for the sets of data most similar to the selected representation around the selected representation at distances in accordance with the similarity values.

84. to 86. (Cancelled)

87.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing instructions for controlling a processor to carry out a method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 52, ~~58,~~ ~~and 62~~.

88.   (Currently Amended) A signal carrying instructions for controlling a processor to carry out a method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 52, ~~58, and 62~~.

89.   (New) The apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said obtaining means further obtains similarity values of the other sets of data to the target data in order to determine a distance between the target data and each of the other sets of data on the screen.

90.   (New) The method according to claim 52, wherein said obtaining step further obtains similarity values of the other sets of data to the target data in order to determine a distance between the target data and each of the other sets a data on the screen.